

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 03446 061654Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01
OIC-02 AGRE-00 IGA-02 /079 W
-----061706Z 086458 /43

O R 061625Z APR 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3485
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ECIN, PO
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, APRIL 5, 1977: PROTUGAL

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3063

1. DURING THEIR APRIL 5 COUNCIL MEETING, THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS DORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE MARCH 28 PROTUGUESE REQUEST FOR ACCESSION TO THE EC. UK FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN (THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT) TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE COUNCIL "WELCOMED" THE APPLICATION AND HAD REQUESTED THAT THE COMMISSION PREPARE ITS OPINION, AS REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE 237 OF THE ROME TREATY.

2. OWEN ALSO ANNOUNCED TO REPORTERS THAT A LETTER FROM THE USG CONCERNING PORTUGAL HAD BEEN REFERRED TO CREPER. OWEN WAS ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS A LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE REGARDING AID TO PORTUGAL AND WAS PRESSED FOR AN INDICATION OF HOW THE EC WOULD REPLY. OWEN RESPONDED

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 03446 061654Z

THAT THE USG DECISION-MAKING PROCESS ON AID TO PORTUGAL WOULD NOT BE FULLY ENGAGED UNTIL LATER AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD FIRST HAVE TO CONSULT CONGRESS. HE SAID IT WAS "IMPORTANT TO PUT ON RECORD" WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BY THE COMMUNITY TO AID PORTUGAL (BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE INDICATED SEPARATELY TO REPORTERS THAT SUCH AID HAD AMOUNTED TO \$1.2 BILLION.)

OWEN EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT MANY US CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS "ARE AWARE OF HOW MUCH THE COMMUNITY HAS ALREADY DONE." HE ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE MODALITIES OF A REPLY TO THE USG HAD NOT BEEN WORKED OUT, THREE OPTIONS SEEMED OPEN TO THE EC: THE COMMUNITY OPTION, BILATERAL MEMBER STATE AID, OR ACTION IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "I KNOW FROM MY DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. VANCE THAT THERE IS ANXIETY THAT THERE SHOULD BE AS REPAID A REPLY AS POSSIBLE. I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND HOPE TO BE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE."

3. COMMENT: AS WILL BE APPARENT FROM THE FOREGOING, OWEN DID NOT REPLY TO REPORTER'S QUESTION ABOUT NATURE AND ORIGIN OF LETTER FROM US WHICH COUNCIL HAS REFERRED TO COREPER. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD THAT MATTER OF AID TO PORTUGAL HAS BEEN RAISED BILATERALLY WITH U.K., FRG AND FRANCE, WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY LETTER REQUESTING EC ACTION. IF SUCH EXISTS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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